

Remarks

Claims 1-25, 32 and 39-45 are currently pending. Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 23, 24 and 39 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

103 Rejections

Claims 1-25, 32 and 39-45 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Knuth (US Pat. 5,646,979) in view of Clapper (US Pat. 6,154,531). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action rejects independent claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 23, 24 and 39 as being unpatentable over Knuth in view of Clapper by asserting that Clapper discloses the deficiencies in Knuth. In particular, The Office Action states that Knuth discloses all of the elements of the claims with the exception of the use of one or more matching circuits to reroute and forward the audible [caller ID] signals from the apparatus to a speaker in an alternative communication device. (See. Page 3).

All of the independent claims recite similar elements. As a representative sample independent claim 1 recites in pertinent part,

“An apparatus for audibly annunciating at a device caller identification information transmitted over a network...comprising... a converter in communication with the receiver for converting the modulated signal into a stream of audible caller ID signals, wherein the converter processes the stream of characters in real-time as the characters are received from the network...one or more matching networks to reroute and forward the audible caller ID signals from the apparatus to a speaker in an alternative telephone device...”.

The Office Action asserts that Clapper fulfills the deficiency in Knuth and was therefore well known in the art to provide such matching circuits to forward audio caller ID signals to a speaker in an alternative phone. The Examiner then cites Column 3, lines 21-50 and Figure 3 as support for his assertion. Since Fig. 3 fails to refer to an alternative phone and the figures are out of order, applicants assume the Office Action intended to cite Fig. 4. In any event, Clapper does not teach or suggest the use of one or more matching circuits to reroute and forward the audible caller ID signals from the apparatus to a speaker in an alternative communication device.

In Column 3, lines 21-50, Clapper discloses the selection of either a visual or

audio method of presentation of Caller ID information via switch 82 as the Caller ID arrives at receiver 12. The citation discloses neither the use of a matching circuit nor the function of forwarding an audible Caller ID signal to an alternative communication device. In Column 3, line 50-57, clapper does teach the use of a ring detector to switch the actual call to either the Caller ID device or to a telephone. However, that is not using a matching circuit to forward the audible Caller ID signal to an alternative communications device.

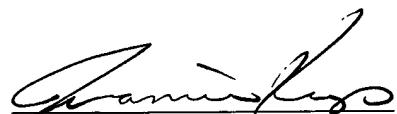
Therefore, the combination of Knuth and Clapper fail to teach all of the elements of the recitations and independent claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 23, 24 and 39 are allowable over the combination of Knuth and Clapper. Dependent claims 1-7, 9-15, 21, 2532 and 40-45 depend from one of allowable claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 23, 24 or 39 and are allowable for at least this same reason.

Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-25, 32 and 39-45 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that the Notice of Allowance be reinstated. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,



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